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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Bjorn PAULSHUS et al.	)	Group Art Unit No:
		)	
Serial No:	09/871,608	)	Examiner:
		)	
Filed:	May 31, 2001	)	
		)	
For:	TENSION MEMBER	)	Attorney Docket No. 7822-82871

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment prior to examination of the present application.

**In the Claims**

Cancel claims 1-9.

Please add claims 11-19 as follows.

--11. A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between at least some of the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

12. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

13. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

14. The tension member according to claims 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements or their adjoining surfaces.

15. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

16. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

17. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

18. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the filaments are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the strands are to be coiled.

19. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.--

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration and further examination of the above-identified patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above-noted Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the present application.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency in fees in connection with the subject patent application to our Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Claims 1-10 were pending prior to this Preliminary Amendment.

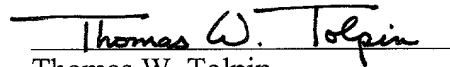
Claims 1-10 have been cancelled.

Claims 11-19 have been added to avoid multiple dependent claims and better conform to U.S. Practice.

Claims 11-19 are presently pending for consideration of the Examiner.

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (3).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. Tolpin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

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For:	TENSION MEMBER	)	Attorney Docket No.: 7822-8271

**CLEAN VERSION OF ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS**

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (3).

Each claim of the clean version of the entire set of claims begins on a separate page in order to facilitate optical scanning of the claims by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

11. (New) A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between at least some of the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

Patent Office

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13. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

13. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

14. (New) The tension member according to claims 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements or their adjoining surfaces.



15. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

15. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

16. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

17. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

4. 3. 2. 1. 0. 1. 2. 3. 4.



19. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.

19. (New) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.

## New Patent Claims

1.

A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments (21) gathered into a plurality of strands (20) in which the filaments (21) run close together, around which strands (5) there is provided a protective sheath (16), characterized in that between at least some of the strands (20) and the protective sheath (29) there are provided spacing elements (25, 30), which spacing elements (25, 30) define an inner cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands (20), and that each strand (20) is coated on the exterior thereof with a sheath (22) of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands (20) to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

2.

The tension member according to claim 1, characterized in that the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

3.

The tension member according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the spacing elements (25, 30) are provided with recesses (26), which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands (20).

4.

The tension member according to claim 3, characterized in that the spacing elements (25, 30) are equipped with complementary locking elements (27, 28) on their adjoining surfaces.

5.

The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 4, characterized in that at least one of the spacing elements (30) comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

6.

